**Export of Cotton**

†2528. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) quantity of cotton exported during the year 2002-03;

(b) whether Government propose to amend the cotton export policy and to lift the restrictions imposed on its export;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the targets fixed for export of cotton during the year 2003-04 and the steps taken to achieve the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Export of raw cotton (including waste) during the year 2002-03 (April-March) was 10.804 ton.

(b) and (c) At present export of cotton is free and without any restrictions.

(d) No target is fixed for export of cotton during 2002-04 and the market forces will decide the quantum of export. Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton to improve the productivity and quality of cotton to enhance its market value.

**Mulberry and Sericulture for SCs and Women**

†2529. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether mulberry and sericulture works are proposed for the Scheduled Castes and for women for their economic development; and

(b) if so, the names of new areas in addition to Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir where this scheme is proposed to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) All categotries of beneficiaries majority of whom are SCs, STs and women are engaged in sericulture.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.